

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 00683

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MX

SUBJECT: POLITICAL TURMOIL IN TAMAULIPAS

REF: (A) 77 NUEVO LAREDO 250, (B) NUEVO LAREDO 5

(C) MATAMOROS 4

1. SUMMARY. DURING THE PAST MONTH TAMAULIPAS STATE HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS FOCUSED ON THE DISPUTED RESULTS OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. THE PROTAGONISTS IN MOST OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE PARM (AUTHENTIC REVOLUTIONARY MEXICAN PARTY), WHICH HAS OFTEN BEEN CONSIDERED AN APPENDAGE OF THE DOMINANT PRI. THE PARM HAS CHARGED THAT MANY OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WERE FRAUDULENTLY CONDUCTED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GOVERNOR ENRIQUE CARDENAS, AND HAVE THUS CALLED FOR HIS RESIGNATION. THE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE RANGED FROM ROAD BLOCKADES AROUND NUEVO LAREDO TO BURNING THE MAYOR'S OFFICE IN CIUDAD MANTE. THE ARMY HAS BEEN SENT TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN EIGHT TENSE MUNICIPALITIES, WHILE POLITICAL PUNDITS QUESTION THE TENURE OF GOVERNOR CARDENAS. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN THE DECEMBER 4 MAYORAL ELECTIONS IN NUEVO LAREDO THE PRI CANDIDATE, HECTOR CANALES, UNEXPECTEDLY DEFEATED THE PARM CANDIDATE, LAURO LONGORIA. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS, THE MOST DRAMATIC OF WHICH WERE THE PARM ROAD BLOCKADES AROUND NUEVO LAREDO FROM DECEMBER 26-30. THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL INTERVENTION TO

HALT THE BLOCKADES, WHICH CEASED WHEN PARM REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNOR AND SECRETARIAT OF GOBERNACION TO ANNUL THE ELECTIONS IN REYNOSA AND ALTAMIRA.

3. IN REYNOSA, THE STATE CONGRESS APPOINTED A MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, COMPRISED ENTIRELY OF PRI MEMBERS, TO ADMINISTER THE CITY WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT NEW ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN 45 DAYS. HOWEVER, ON JANUARY 10, GOVERNOR CARDENAS ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INTERIM ELECTION AND THAT THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE WOULD GOVERN UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR ELECTIONS IN THREE YEARS. THIS SOLUTION APPEARS TO BE ACCEPTED BY MOST POLITICIANS IN REYNOSA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE DEFEATED PARM CANDIDATE, JESUS TREVINO.

4. IN CIUDAD MANTE (IN SOUTHERN TAMAULIPAS STATE, NEAR THE BORDER WITH VERACRUZ AND SAN LUIS POTOSI STATES) ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 6 DURING A DEMONSTRATION BY SOME 5,000 PARM SUPPORTERS, A RIOT ERUPTED WHICH LED TO THE BURNING OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND SEVERAL OFFICIAL VEHICLES. DAMAGE IS ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY \$2.2 MILLION U.S. TROOPS WERE SENT IN ON JANUARY 7 TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN MAINTAINING ORDER AND WILL REMAIN UNTIL CALM IS RESTORED. THE GOVERNOR CHARGED THAT THE VIOLENCE WAS THE ACT OF SUBVERSIVES AND OUTSIDE AGITATORS, AND THAT IT WAS NOT RELATED TO THE ELECTORAL DISPUTE. CARLOS  
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SANSORES PEREZ, PRI PRESIDENT, SAID THE PROBLEMS IN TAMAULIPAS, OAXACA AND JALISCO WERE ALL PART OF A NATIONAL PLOT TO DESTABILIZE MEXICO. HOWEVER, HIS CHARGE WAS COUNTERED BY SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, FELIX GALVAN LOPEZ, WHO SAID THE DISTURBANCES WERE THE RESULT OF DISCONTENTED GROUPS IN THOSE REGIONS.

5. THE BASIC PROBLEM IN TAMAULIPAS IS DISSATISFACTION BY PARM MEMBERS AND SOME PRI DISSIDENTS WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH GOVERNOR CARDENAS AND THE PRI CONTROL POLITICS IN THE STATE. SINCE THE SUPREME COURT CANNOT CONSTITUTIONALLY INTERVENE IN SETTling MUNICIPAL ELECTION DISPUTES, FINDING A SOLUTION IS LEFT TO THE PRI. GIVEN THE RIGID HIERARCHY OF THE PRI, THE CAUSES OF LOCAL DISPUTES ARE SOUGHT AT STATE (READ GOVERNOR CARDENAS) AND NATIONAL LEVELS (READ SANSORES PEREZ). POLITICAL PUNDITS BELIEVE THAT EVENTS OF THE PAST MONTH WILL PROMPT LOPEZ PORTILLO TO REMOVE CARDENAS, AFTER SUFFICIENT TIME HAS ELAPSED TO REMOVE ANY IMPLICATION OF PARM PRESSURE ON HIS DECISION. PUNDITS ALSO CLAIM THAT THE DISTURBANCES IN TAMAULIPAS WILL FURTHER UNDERCUT SANSORES' TENURE AS HEAD OF THE PRI. THE TAMAULIPAS DISTURBANCE MAY BE SYMPTOMATIC OF THE PROB-

LEMS THE PRI WILL ENCOUNTER IN THE 1979 CONGRESSIONAL  
ELECTIONS. LUCEY

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## Message Attributes

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